(c) The value of imports of such food items for the various period is indicated below:-

(Value Rs. crores)

1960-61	*1970-71*	*1980-81*	*1986-87*
33	29	280	592

Separate break-up of pulses, milk products, etc. is not available.

(d) and (e). Such considerations are always kept in view while deciding our exports and imports of food items. Exports are allowed only to the extent of surpluses available.

[*Translation*]

Export of Readymade Cotton Garments

760. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether readymade garments are being exported every year besides yarn and cotton garments;

(b) if so, whether there is a great demand of readymade cotton garments abroad and there is a good potentiality of boosting the export of these items; and

(c) if so, the reasons for exporting yarn and cotton instead of cotton cloth and the readymade garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is considerable demand for cotton readymade garments abroad. there is also a good potential for boosting export of this item.

(c) Government's endeavour is to promote export of value added products. At the same time the market abroad for cotton yarn and cotton is also good and a limited quantity of these items is permitted for export keeping in view the domestic availability and the need to maintain India's presence in the international market as a stable supplier.

[*English*]

Central Assistance to Handloom Weavers of Tamil Nadu

761. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu who sought financial and other assistance from the Union Government during 1990-91 to overcome their difficulties;

(b) the details of the financial and other assistance rendered to such handloom weavers;

(c) whether any assessment has been made by the Government to improve the overall economic conditions of the handloom weavers and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps been taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE